

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims:

AI
1 1. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a communications network
2 having network elements for performing telephony services, comprising:
3 providing an interface to the network elements;
4 receiving requests, by the interface, from a software module ~~containing~~
5 ~~elements representative of specifying performance of telephony services to be performed;~~
6 and
7 sending, in response to requests of the module, commands over a packet-
8 based network to one or more network elements involved in performing the ~~desired~~
9 telephony services.

1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the interface
2 comprises providing representations of the network elements, the method further
3 comprising accessing the representations to generate the commands to the one or more
4 network elements.

1 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving requests from the
2 software module comprises receiving requests from script modules.

1 4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein providing the interface
2 comprises providing a script engine.

1 5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein providing the interface
2 comprises providing a script engine and an application programming interface.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the interface
2 comprises providing a Simple Object Access Protocol component.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the interface
2 comprises providing a Common Object Request Broker Architecture component.

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1 8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising representing the
2 software module as a state machine having a plurality of states each representing an
3 action corresponding to a telephony service.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the software module
2 receiving user input from which is generated the requests.

1 10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the commands
2 comprises sending the commands to one or more network elements selected from the
3 group consisting of an integrated voice response system, a DTMF decoder, a voice mail
4 system, and a recording system.

1 11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing telephony services in a
2 communications network having network elements comprising:
3 a software module containing instructions specifying performance of
4 telephony services in the communications network; and
5 an interface layer comprising one or more components responsive to
6 execution of the ~~modules~~ software module to provide commands over a packet-based
7 network to corresponding network elements to perform the telephony services specified
8 by the software module.

1 12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the interface layer
2 comprises representations of the network elements.

1 13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the interface layer
2 comprises a communications component to send the commands to the network elements.

A) 1 14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the communications
2 component comprises an Object Request Broker.

1 15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the communications
2 component comprises an application programming interface.

1 16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the commands
2 may include Session Initiation Protocol messages.

1 17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the software module
2 comprises a script.

1 18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the interface layer
2 comprises a script engine.

1 19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the software module
2 comprises a Java object.

1 20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the interface layer
2 comprises a Simple Object Access Protocol component.

1 21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the interface layer
2 comprises a Common Object Request Broker Architecture component.

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1 22. (Currently Amended) A system for use in a telephony network having
2 network elements capable of performing various telephony services, comprising:
3 means for storing representations of telephony services;
4 means for communicating with the network elements; and
5 means for executing the storing means to specify performance of a
6 telephony service, the communicating means providing, in response to execution of the
7 storing means, commands over a packet-based network to the one or more network
8 elements involved in performing the ~~desired~~ telephony service.

1 23. (Cancelled)

1 24. (Currently Amended) An article including one or more machine-readable
2 storage media containing instructions for providing telephony services in a
3 communications network, the instructions when executed causing a controller to:
4 receive requests from a telephony service software module specifying
5 plural telephony tasks; and
6 send commands over a packet-based network to one or more network
7 elements in the communications network in response to the requests to perform the
8 specified telephony tasks.

1 25. (Original) The article of claim 24, wherein the instructions when executed
2 cause the controller to send commands according to a Command Object Request Broker
3 Architecture protocol.

1 26. (Original) The article of claim 24, wherein the instructions when executed
2 cause the controller to perform one or more of the tasks selected from the group
3 consisting of play recording, receive dual tone multi-frequency signals, receive voice
4 data, access voice mail, and forward a call.

1 27. (Currently Amended) A data signal embodied in a carrier wave
2 comprising instructions that when executed cause a system to:
3 receive requests specifying telephony services from a software module;
4 and
5 generate commands over a packet-based network to network elements in
6 response to the request to perform the telephony services.

A2 1 28. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the commands comprises
2 sending Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) messages.

1 29. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein sending the commands over the
2 packet-based network comprises sending the commands over an Internet Protocol (IP)
3 network.

1 30. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving requests specifying
2 performance of telephony services comprises receiving requests specifying performance
3 of telephony services over the packet-based network.

1 31. (New) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the representations of the
2 network elements comprise representations of one or more of the following network
3 elements: an integrated voice response system, a DTMF decoder, a voice mail system,
4 and a recording system.

1 32. (New) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the packet-based network
2 comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) network.

1 33. (New) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the software module contains
2 instructions specifying performance of telephony services over the packet-based network.

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1 34. (New) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the software module contains
2 instructions specifying performance of telephony services over the Internet Protocol (IP)
3 network.

1 35. (New) The system of claim 22, wherein the packet-based network
2 comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) network, and the storing means stores representations
3 of telephony services over the IP network.

1 36. (New) The article of claim 24, wherein sending commands over the
2 packet-based network comprises sending commands over an Internet Protocol (IP)
3 network.

1 37. (New) The article of claim 36, wherein receiving requests from the
2 telephony service software module specifying plural telephony tasks comprises receiving
3 requests from the telephony service software module specifying plural telephony tasks
4 over the IP network.

1 38. (New) The article of claim 24, wherein sending the commands comprises
2 sending the commands to one or more of the following network elements: an integrated
3 voice response system, a DTMF decoder, a voice mail system, and a recording system.
